The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/72/111 and A/72/111/Add.1)

1. **Mr. Al-Thari** (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, said that terrorism constituted a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and contradicted the principles and practices of Islam; it should not be associated with any religion, race, faith, theology, values, culture, society or group. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation took note of recent statements of world leaders who dissociated Islam from terrorist organizations; it strongly condemned any attempt to link Islam with terrorism and reiterated the importance of promoting dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations, for the good of peace and harmony in the world. It therefore welcomed international and regional initiatives and efforts to that end.

2. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. It was essential to follow a comprehensive approach by addressing the root causes of terrorism, including the unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, repression, festering international disputes and political marginalization and alienation. It was important to combat all terrorist groups and organizations, wherever they existed, without any distinction.

3. States should enhance their cooperation and coordination with the aim of prosecuting the perpetrators of terrorist acts; preventing the provision of funds, safe havens, assistance or weapons to terrorist groups and organizations; and refuting the narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups and organizations. It was also important to distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, a distinction which was anchored in international law, international humanitarian law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 46/51.

4. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a living document that should be updated and re-examined regularly and implemented in a balanced manner. States should cooperate to ban the payment of ransoms to terrorists. It was important to increase the resources of United Nations entities and departments entrusted with capacity-building in Member States to assist them in fulfilling their obligations under United Nations resolutions. It was also important to enhance bilateral technical assistance and technology transfer to that end.

5. Every effort should be made to reach a consensus agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism by resolving the outstanding issues, including the legal definition of terrorism, in particular the distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right to self-determination by peoples under foreign occupation or colonial or alien domination and the scope of the acts covered by that instrument.

6. A high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations should be convened to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to arrive at an agreed definition of terrorism.

7. **Ms. Cerrato** (Honduras) said that international terrorism, which pursued destabilization of the world, had become a ferocious monster. Honduras condemned any and all forms of terrorism as being manifestations of human cruelty for which there could be no political, ideological, religious or cultural justification. Honduras was committed to the maintenance of international peace and security and aligned itself with all actions and agreements that strengthened the interrelations and obligations among nations with a view to promoting a culture of peace.

8. As a party to international instruments against terrorism such as the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, Honduras reiterated its commitment to combating terrorism, with full respect for national and international law, human rights and international humanitarian law. It welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/291, on strengthening the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, through which the Office of Counter-Terrorism had been established.

9. **Mr. Saikal** (Afghanistan) said that terrorism was not only an attack on human life and basic freedoms, but an attack on the compact of citizenship — on the relationship of the nation-State with its people, which made democratic societies unique, fair and free.

10. Afghanistan remained a front-line State in the world's fight against international terrorism. Its struggle against that global menace was ingrained in its social fabric, and it was making steady progress in combating the evil of terrorism, which was alien to

Afghan values, customs and traditions. Afghan security forces were battling terrorist groups from abroad that were intent on keeping the country unstable. In different parts of the country, major losses had been inflicted in the ranks of terrorists and violent extremist groups — the Taliban, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaida and other such entities.

11. Having suffered setbacks, those groups had now shifted their tactics. It was indicative of their absolute moral bankruptcy that they were now focusing their barbaric attacks on ordinary Afghans, public figures and international security and civilian personnel working to promote stability and prosperity in the country. Outside the battlefield, his country was working closely with others in the region — bilaterally, trilaterally and through other mechanisms — to tackle the threat of terrorism and other transnational criminal activities plaguing Afghanistan and the region.

12. Reversing the tide of terrorism warranted more effective action by the United Nations. The establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism was an important development. It was to be hoped that the new Office would function in a manner that would have a positive impact on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Renewed focus must be given to the implementation of the Security Council resolutions dealing with terrorism, which provided a strong basis for suppressing the capacity, resources and other enablers that empowered terrorists to continue their vicious campaign. All States must condemn all terrorist elements without any distinction and prevent any form of support to terrorists, including safe havens and moral, material and financial aid. Afghanistan joined other countries in expressing its concern over the impasse in finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. All outstanding issues should be resolved in the interests of strengthening the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture.

13. **Mr. Sadykov** (Kazakhstan) said that Kazakhstan strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and affirmed that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, culture, civilization or ethnic group. Terrorism respected no borders; his delegation wished to pay its respects to the victims of terrorism in countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom. Kazakhstan, too, had fallen victim to terrorist attacks orchestrated by a variety of groups in the recent past.

14. His country welcomed the recent reform of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture with the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism; Kazakhstan looked forward to working closely with the Office.

15. More than 20 years of debates had still not led to the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism; however, many achievements had emerged from the process so far. Despite their differences, Member States had come a long way in charting the course towards effectively fulfilling their collective responsibilities. Their discussions had yielded three separate instruments that aimed to tackle terrorism: the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted in 1997; the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, adopted in 1999, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted in 2005. They joined the 19 international counter-terrorism conventions already in force, of which Kazakhstan had ratified 15.

16. Another notable achievement and manifestation of a global consensus had been the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006. While the primary responsibility to implement the Strategy remained with individual Member States, a regional and global approach had proven beneficial. In 2011, Central Asia had been the first region where a comprehensive and integrated joint plan of action for the implementation of the Global Strategy had been adopted. In 2017, Kazakhstan had contributed $300,000 for the implementation of the joint plan of action, under which Central Asian countries had collaborated on such issues as countering the financing of terrorism, enhancing border security, fostering dialogue with religious institutions and leaders and highlighting the role of the media in addressing terrorism and violent extremism. Kazakhstan was gravely concerned about the emergence of radical terrorist groups in Afghanistan, along its borders with the countries of Central Asia.

17. Working towards the elimination of terrorism also required coordinated actions aimed at eradicating the causes that gave rise to terrorism through measures to prevent the radicalization of youth, such as facilitating employment and access to education, skills development and inter-ethnic and interreligious dialogue, all measures in which Kazakhstan was currently engaged.

18. His country stood for the widest implementation of multilateral instruments and mechanisms to stop the movement of foreign terrorist fighters, shut down channels for the financial support of terrorist activities through illegal trade in drugs, natural resources and

cultural artefacts, and counter the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. Such endeavours would require strong regional cooperation and the political will for countries to fulfil all their obligations. No country alone could be effective in its counter-terrorism measures if it did not benefit from the collaboration of others.

19. With that in mind, Kazakhstan intended to start a process of consultation for the preparation of a code of conduct for the achievement of a terrorism-free world. The process of consultation would determine the principles to be included in the code of conduct, charting collective responsibilities and contributions towards defeating and preventing international terrorism. The code of conduct would focus on what countries had in common, as opposed to what divided them, and on their collective responsibility towards compliance with the international instruments they had agreed to. It would forge a global partnership for the prevention of terrorism based on the principles of good will and understanding of common interests.

20. **Ms. Guadey** (Ethiopia) said that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provided a global framework for enhancing national, regional and international counter-terrorism efforts. While the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy rested with Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations must continue to play a key role in promoting cooperation on fighting terrorism. Her delegation welcomed the recent establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General, and she expressed the hope that the Office would increase the synergy among United Nations entities working on counter-terrorism. The Security Council counter-terrorism architecture established by resolution 1373 (2001) was another important framework for combating terrorism and violent extremism.

21. Despite the significant progress made in those and other global frameworks, international cooperation to address the threat of terrorism remained ineffective, and double standards persisted. The fact that terrorism was a complex and ever-changing phenomenon called for sophisticated mechanisms geared to addressing new and emerging challenges. Ethiopia was in a volatile neighbourhood that was facing threats of terrorism and violent extremism; it considered effective international and regional cooperation on countering such threats to be a matter of absolute necessity. She applauded the important role that the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Centre of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism had started to play in promoting the regional sharing of good practices and lessons learned and in bringing together stakeholders in the region. Ensuring continued support to that subregional centre was critically important.

22. Ethiopia had ratified nine of the international counter-terrorism agreements and the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and had taken a number of legal and administrative measures to implement them. Despite the many strides made, a great deal remained to be done, and Ethiopia would continue to work with Member States and United Nations and other stakeholders in countering the menace of terrorism.

23. In conclusion, her delegation reiterated its support for the convening of an international summit under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including identifying its root causes, and called on Member States to show flexibility in resolving outstanding issues so that the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism could be finalized.

24. **Ms. Flores Herrera** (Panama) said that her country's ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of 19 other regional and international instruments was a reliable indicator of the priority it accorded to combating international terrorism. Complying with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), Panama had included a section on terrorism in its Criminal Code which characterized as crimes against collective security any disturbance of the peace or instigation of panic or terror and any provision of monetary or material resources or other financing for the commission of terrorism.

25. Since Panama was a transit State with a financial system of some importance in the region, that system could be used for both lawful and unlawful purposes. One way of suppressing terrorism was to cut off its sources of financing, strengthen financial institutions and adopt legislation in accordance with international standards of due diligence. Her country was working on legislative reforms towards that end. For example, on 27 April 2015, the National Assembly had adopted legislation providing for regulatory and administrative measures to prevent money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and financial support for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

26. Panama was the only country in Latin America to form part of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL led by the United States of America; its efforts were focused exclusively on preventing terrorist groups from using the Panamanian banking system for their financing. While heading the Inter-American Committee against

Terrorism (CICTE), it had hosted the first conference on the financing of terrorism and cybersecurity.

27. In addition to focusing on cutting off the financing of terrorist groups, Panama firmly supported the exchange of information and continuing education in the southern hemisphere. It had the largest biometric database in the region, and it had prevented persons with links to terrorism, members of international criminal networks, drug traffickers and persons trafficking in human beings from passing through the country.

28. No one could remain neutral in the face of terrorism and the murder of innocent civilians.

29. **Mr. Mikeladze** (Georgia) said that the globalization of commerce, greater freedom of travel and improved information transfer technologies opened up new vistas of opportunities for terrorists. Any form of direct or indirect support of terrorism by any State or non-State actors should be condemned, and States should adhere to all United Nations anti-terrorism conventions and relevant international instruments.

30. As ISIL was currently experiencing significant loss of territories both in Iraq and in the Syrian Arab Republic, there was an increasing threat that it would shift combat strategy and direct its main resources towards other countries. Robust efforts were needed to counter that threat by introducing measures that were both effective and in full compliance with the principles of international instruments on human rights, humanitarian law and refugee law. Stronger support for the rule of law was a fundamental component of the fight against terrorism, the strengthening of international cooperation and the intensive and timely sharing of information were of paramount importance.

31. In Georgia, significant attention was being given to the prevention of radicalization. The Government was making considerable efforts to facilitate the reintegration of vulnerable members of local communities into society. Notably, no travels of Georgian citizens to the Middle East to join ISIS or of foreign terrorist fighters from the Middle East to Georgia had been detected recently.

32. In December 2016, Georgia had voluntarily allocated financial support for humanitarian activities in the Syrian Arab Republic aimed at improving the situation on the ground. In addition, Georgia had accepted hundreds of asylum seekers from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq who were fleeing the violence and brutality of ISIS.

33. Ensuring accountability for such heinous crimes was critically important. Georgia had been a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 71/248, aimed at the establishment of an international, impartial and independent mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for the most serious crimes committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. In February 2017, Georgia had made financial contributions to support the establishment of the mechanism.

34. Capacity-building in all States and a coordinated international approach were vital elements of the global counter-terrorism effort. All Member States should increase their contributions to the relevant United Nations cooperation and technical assistance projects.

35. In conclusion, he reiterated his country's strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.

36. **Mr. Khiari** (Tunisia) said that terrorism was a flagrant violation of the rule of law and the principles enshrined in humanitarian law, human rights law and all relevant international instruments. Since the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, a breakthrough had been achieved in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. The recent reform of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture and the adoption of various resolutions tackling that issue testified to the commitment of Member States to step up efforts to address effectively the relevant threats to international peace and security. Tunisia welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and stood ready to work closely with the new Office for the purpose of delivering a comprehensive, balanced and strategic answer to the unprecedented threat of terrorism, in accordance with the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

37. Like many other countries, Tunisia had faced the scourge of terrorism and believed it was imperative that terrorists should know that the international community stood absolutely firm in its resolve to combat terrorism, thanks to ample international and regional cooperation and solidarity. Tunisia had acceded to different international legal instruments linked to the terrorist threat and to the elimination of the financing of terrorist groups and had ratified regional conventions related to the fight against terrorism. In 2015, his country had adopted a law on the fight against terrorism and the repression of money-laundering, criminalizing all acts of support for, incitement to, training for, recruitment for and justification of terrorism and all complicity in the

financing of terrorist activities. In November 2016, Tunisia had adopted a comprehensive national strategy on extremism and terrorism, which covered prevention, protection, prosecution and response.

38. His delegation stressed the importance of adopting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Tunisia called on all Member States to fully engage in resolving the outstanding issues, namely the legal definition and the scope of terrorism. Holding a high-level conference under United Nations auspices to formulate the joint, organized response of the international community to terrorism would be an important step towards reaching consensus on the unresolved issues related to the draft convention.

39. **Mr. Gertze** (Namibia) said that his country unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It welcomed the Secretary-General's engagement in a successful review of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture and the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and expressed the hope that it would work closely with the regional groups and the entire United Nations family.

40. Namibia would work with other delegations to refine the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to achieve consensus regarding a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. There was a need for increased cooperation between the regional organizations and the United Nations on that matter. The proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be given priority attention.

41. Terrorism should not automatically be linked to any particular religion; nor should the genuine struggle for independence by people whose territories were under occupation be equated to terrorism. Nevertheless, Namibia was concerned over the possible danger of the use of or search for asylum as a pretext to commit terrorist acts in other countries. Member States needed to put in place vigorous and regular screening mechanisms to ensure that those who had committed terrorist acts did not enjoy refugee status. Countries should have the capacity to prosecute their nationals when they were accused of carrying out terrorist acts, irrespective of where the crime was committed. Member States should also cooperate in finding and sharing evidence on terrorist acts. National laws should limit the chances for funding terrorists. Moreover, international cooperation between law enforcement and judicial agencies was a necessity.

42. The Government of Namibia had undertaken numerous measures to enhance the capacity of relevant institutions to address the scourge of terrorism. It had participated in the development of regional processes to facilitate the exchange of intelligence among States. In 2014, in compliance with the relevant United Nations conventions and Security Council resolutions, the Government had passed a law on the prevention and combating of terrorist and proliferation activities and had adopted the relevant implementing regulations. Together with other members of the Southern African Development Community, Namibia was implementing a strategy on countering terrorism in the region and a protocol on extradition and mutual legal assistance.

43. **Ms. Pierce** (United States of America) said that all terrorist acts, by whomever committed, were criminal, inhumane and unjustifiable, regardless of motivation. Her delegation reiterated its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and its commitment to the fight to end it. Joint international efforts were needed to prevent such heinous acts and, in that regard, the United Nations had a critical role to play in mobilizing the international community, building capacity and facilitating technical assistance to Member States in implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant resolutions.

44. A number of Security Council resolutions adopted over the past year underscored the counter-terrorism role of all elements of government, including ministries of finance, justice, the interior and security. The resolutions covered subjects such as preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons, countering terrorist narratives, protecting cultural heritage in armed conflict, protecting critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks, preventing human trafficking in areas affected by armed conflict and strengthening international judicial cooperation on counter-terrorism.

45. Results were being achieved. The flow of foreign terrorist fighters had declined substantially over the last year. Her Government had information-sharing arrangements with almost 70 international partners to help identify, track and deter known and suspected terrorists, and some 26 partners shared financial information that could provide actionable leads to intercept or prosecute foreign terrorist fighters. At least 31 countries used enhanced traveller screening measures, approximately 60 countries had enacted legislation to prosecute and punish activities relating to foreign terrorist fighters, and at least 65 countries had prosecuted or arrested such fighters or those facilitating their activities. All Member States could learn from each other's experiences, but much more needed to be done to fully implement Security Council resolution 2178 (2014).

46. Her delegation firmly supported the efforts of the United Nations, the Global Counterterrorism Forum and other multilateral bodies, civil society and non-governmental organizations aimed at developing practical tools to further the United Nations counter-terrorism framework. Continued coordination was needed among the various United Nations entities and external partners such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum and its related initiatives and platforms, which advanced the practical implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through training, capacity-building and grant-making efforts for community-based projects to prevent and counter violent extremism.

47. The United States welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, which must pursue an approach to implementing the Global Strategy and the recommendations of the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism in which the importance of respecting human rights and the rule of law was recognized.

48. Domestically, the United States was continuing to raise community awareness of violent extremism, radicalization and recruitment dynamics and to provide community leaders with tools and resources to work on prevention efforts. One new area of work was state and local intervention services for individuals headed down a path toward violent extremism or radicalization before a crime was committed.

49. All Member States should provide the United Nations system actors and other relevant actors with sufficient resources to deliver required technical assistance and generate more effective solutions. In that regard, her Government continued to make voluntary contributions to the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute for the development of research, assistance and training. It encouraged other Member States to join it in helping to provide technical and capacity-building assistance across a range of issues addressed by the Global Strategy, including preventing and countering violent extremism, and implementing relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2178 (2014). A growing pool of donors to the United Nations and INTERPOL could also help coordinate the international community's civilian counter-terrorism assistance based on shared priorities. In addition, Member States should partner with local communities and key civil society organizations, which were often among the most effective in countering terrorist lies.

50. While the international community had made significant progress in developing a robust legal counter-terrorism regime, much remained to be done. The existing international counter-terrorism instruments would be effective only if they were widely ratified and implemented. She drew particular attention to the six instruments concluded since 2005 on such issues as the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, the physical protection of nuclear material and the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of maritime navigation, unlawful acts relating to international civil aviation and unlawful seizure of aircraft.

51. Her delegation remained willing to work with other States to build on and enhance the international counter-terrorism framework and would listen carefully to the statements of other delegations concerning the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The United Nations must send united and unambiguous signals with regard to terrorism.

52. **Mr. Kapambwe** (Zambia) said that Zambia unreservedly condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, irrespective of the motivation, and regardless of where they occurred or by whom they were perpetrated. It would continue to fulfil its obligations under international law by supporting all counter-terrorism measures adopted by relevant regional groups, mechanisms and the international community that were consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and soon, it was to be hoped, with a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

53. Since 2015, when the country's anti-terrorism legislation had been amended, the Government had issued regulations to implement Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001) and their successors. The first national money-laundering and terrorist financing risk assessment report had been issued in September 2017; it showed that the money-laundering risk in Zambia was medium to high while the terrorist financing risk was medium to low. An action plan had since been developed to assist both the Government and the private sector to prioritize their combined efforts to mitigate money-laundering and terrorist financing risks.

54. There was a need for the international community to combine efforts to deal decisively with the scourge of terrorism and to provide technical support to developing countries to enhance and strengthen their institutions dealing with terrorism.

55. There were not more than five regional groups in the United Nations, yet in combination they could eliminate terrorism in all its forms; together they could give rise to peace, security, stability and sustainable development throughout the world.

56. **Mr. Waweru** (Kenya) said that Kenya had suffered and was still suffering from the scourge of terrorism. It expressed solidarity with Member States that had been subjected to terrorism in the recent past, including Mali, Libya, the United Kingdom, France, Afghanistan and Iraq. Kenya condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It welcomed the Secretary-General's successful review of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture and the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism. With that boost to the United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, much-needed coherence and improved coordination would be realized.

57. No single nation could win the war against terrorism alone. That was why Kenya had ratified and domesticated all the international conventions against transnational organized crime, including the protocols on terrorism and associated crimes such as money-laundering, drug trafficking, human trafficking and corruption. However, with the emergence and expansion of transnational crime, including terrorism, all justice systems were confronted with new challenges. Criminal offenders, including terrorists, were mobile and often sought to evade detection, arrest and punishment by operating across international borders and by playing on the reluctance of law enforcement authorities to engage in complicated and expensive transnational investigations and prosecutions.

58. Kenya supported international judicial and law enforcement cooperation, mutual legal assistance, extradition, the transfer of prisoners and the transfer of proceedings in terrorism and other criminal matters. It had forged important bilateral partnerships against terrorism, particularly for building its counter-terrorism capacities. Regionally, Kenya had strong law enforcement and judicial cooperation partnerships within the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

59. Kenya remained a front-line State against terrorism in Africa. Since 2012, it had contributed significant numbers of troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Kenya called on the international community to continue supporting the work of AMISOM through adequate and predictable financing, because even though Somalia was relatively stable, the war against Al-Shabaab terrorism was yet to be concluded.

60. In September 2016, Kenya had launched its national strategy to counter violent extremism, and it had incorporated into domestic law the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. A revamped national counter-terrorism centre that coordinated efforts against radicalization and extremism had already recorded much success.

61. To sustainably respond to the problem of violent extremism and terrorism, it was important to have comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies that empowered civil society organizations, including religious leaders and women, as well as vulnerable groups, and that covered not only security and law enforcement but also poverty eradication, job creation and development. In an effort to remove the conditions conducive to the radicalization and extremism that led to terrorism, Kenya had devoted resources to new local administrative units in an effort to address historic claims of marginalization and to help create opportunities for local youth. It had established prison-based programmes to rehabilitate radicalized youth and reintegrate them into society. Terrorists were increasingly appropriating cyberspace to advance their evil schemes. The use of the Internet by terrorists must be stopped.

62. **Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives) said that recent acts of terrorism — from the bombings in a crowded London subway station to the terrifying attacks in Burkina Faso and the coordinated actions that had taken the lives of United Nations peacekeeping soldiers in Mali — should have no place in the civilized world. His Government strongly condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed. In particular, the Maldives condemned all acts of terrorism committed in the name of Islam. Terrorism had no place in Islam, and no terrorist activity could be attributed to that great religion.

63. Efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism must begin with, and be guided by, a clear and resolute policy. In 2016, his country had formulated a comprehensive national policy against terrorism and violent extremism. The Maldives had enacted an anti-terrorism law in 2015 which helped law enforcement agencies and the prosecuting authorities to deal with foreign terrorist fighters and those providing financial or material support to terrorist or violent extremist organizations. It had conducted a baseline study on factors contributing to

radicalization in the Maldives. In 2016, the Government had established a national counter-terrorism centre to provide a common platform to facilitate information- and intelligence-sharing and synchronize inter-agency activities aimed at combating terrorism and violent extremism. In October 2016, it had hosted an international seminar on counter-terrorism and violent extremism so as to establish an international network to facilitate further collaboration.

64. The most feasible strategy to prevent and counter violent extremism was through programmes to enable communities to resist the ideologies of radicalization. Communities, especially women and young people, needed to be empowered. Young people were the most vulnerable to radicalization, but they were also the best hope for positive change in societies.

65. His Government believed that its counter-terrorism strategy had to be part of a global, comprehensive approach. It commended the establishment of the new Office of Counter-Terrorism.

66. **Mr. Musikhin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation welcomed the establishment, by General Assembly resolution 71/291, of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and was prepared to assist that Office. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy must be implemented in a balanced manner, with equal attention to each of its four pillars, and with a view to halting terrorist threats on the basis of appropriate analysis of their evolution. In that analysis, the following aspects should be taken into account.

67. Firstly, international terrorism was continuing to link up with transnational organized crime; its financial foundation was being shored up through petroleum profits and illicit trade in narcotics, cultural artefacts and natural resources. The type of terrorist acts now being committed required very little preparation, aside from massive indoctrination. Hence the need for preventing the expansion of terrorist ideologies that led to radicalization. Terrorists were still using the Internet successfully to disseminate their ideas, recruit new fighters and prepare acts of terrorism. Now as never before, coordinated efforts to identify and remove terrorist content from the Internet were urgently needed. At the same time, the ideals of tolerance and understanding among ethnic groups and religious faiths should be advanced. Clerics should be involved in that effort, as should the media, which must be expected to voluntarily limit the dissemination of information that might benefit terrorism.

68. Secondly, there was the problem of the return of foreign terrorist fighters from conflict areas with military experience and links that would enable them to carry out subversive activities in their home countries. The Russian Federation had long been proposing a range of measures to combat the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, including a system-wide approach with enhanced cooperation between special services and financial intelligence units and improved mechanisms for legal cooperation on the problem. There was also a need for greater exchange of information, stronger border controls and the tracking of the fighters' movements.

69. His country consistently supported United Nations efforts to strengthen the counter-terrorism potential of the countries concerned. Against the background of the growing threat of terrorism in Central Asia, the Office of Counter-Terrorism would be justified in paying greater attention to ensuring counter-terrorism protection for States in that region. A great deal of useful experience had been gained in that regard through the work of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. With active Russian participation, those regional bodies had consistently taken measures to improve the legal basis of the fight against terrorism and to harmonize legislation.

70. The continued terrorist acts in various parts of the globe proved that efforts to create individual islands of security, free from terrorism, could not yield the desired results. Preventing the terrorist threat from spreading would be possible only on a truly collective basis, without double standards. He called on all Member States to show zero tolerance towards terrorism, in accordance with the Global Strategy.

71. Referring to the statement made the day before by Ukraine, he said that that delegation was once again trying to distract attention from the real problems of terrorism. Having unleashed large-scale military actions in 2014 against the population of the eastern regions of the country, the authorities in Kiev were again seeking justification for their actions under the guise of counter-terrorism. That was unacceptable. The delegation had also distorted the content of the order issued by the International Court of Justice in April 2017; in reality, the Court had rejected all the provisional measures requested by Kiev under the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

72. **Mr. Djani** (Indonesia) said that every country, regardless of its beliefs or the nature of its economy, whether developed or developing, faced the same threat from terrorism, a menace that respected no borders, races or colours. Terrorists were evolving in

their methods, organization and networks. No single country could deal with terrorism on its own. Capacity-building in respect of legal frameworks, human and institutional resources and early warning was essential to enable States to cope with the threat of terrorism in all its manifestations.

72. The message that terrorism was not linked to a particular religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group must be stated clearly and reflected in media reporting. A balance of hard and soft approaches was needed as part of a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy. Under a hard approach, legal frameworks and law enforcement would be strengthened. In the soft approach, countries would continue to work through cultural, community and religious organizations. De-radicalization and counter-radicalization programmes must be used to rehabilitate convicted terrorists and reintegrate them into society. Through such programmes, former terrorists could become involved in efforts to combat radicalism and extremism in the families of terrorists, thereby breaking the cycle of intergenerational terrorism, increasing counter-narratives in social media and enhancing the role of women and the family in countering violent extremism. Terrorist financing must be eliminated by thwarting the ability of financial systems to be conducive to terrorism. Creative use must be made of new technology in fighting terrorists, who had themselves been creative in exploiting the weaknesses of information technology and social media by means of cyberattacks.

74. Extremism and radicalism from conflict areas to other regions were being spread through the use of foreign terrorist fighters and individual terrorist acts by the so-called "lone wolf". Indonesia had taken several steps to tackle the problem: banning ISIL; discouraging and preventing people from joining ISIL; monitoring and closing websites related to ISIL; and countering radical narratives on the Internet. Indonesia was also in the process of finalizing an amendment to its counter-terrorism law to address the subject of foreign terrorist fighters.

75. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy must be implemented in a balanced manner; such implementation, strengthened by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, would enable more action-oriented activities to be undertaken in a coordinated and coherent manner.

76. Global partnerships were needed for concrete action to be taken to address issues such as foreign terrorist fighters, cross-border terrorist financing, global terrorist networking and cyberspace. The idea of convening a high-level meeting on the global response to terrorism and countering violent extremism should be further explored.

77. **Mr. Şen** (Turkey) said that Turkey strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and paid its respects to the memories of the victims of terrorism. It continued to combat terrorist organizations, notably the Fethullah terrorist organization, ISIL, Al-Qaida, the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and some left-wing terrorist organizations. The instability and ongoing conflicts in the region were a pressing challenge for national security.

78. Turkey had been at the forefront of the fight against ISIL from the very beginning. Its no-entry list included 53,781 individuals, and it had deported 5,217 persons in the context of measures against foreign terrorist fighters. Risk analysis units at Turkish airports had denied entry to more than 4,000 suspected foreign terrorist fighters.

79. Horrendous PKK attacks had claimed the lives of 371 civilians and 1,003 law enforcement and security personnel in Turkey over the past two years. Groups affiliated with the PKK were active in Syria, Iraq and Europe. Counter-measures against PKK activities were particularly important with a view to hindering financing, recruitment and propaganda activities. Turkey expected its allies to maintain their vigilance against the PKK and its affiliated entities.

80. The international community must act with equal determination against all terrorist organizations; a selective approach was unacceptable. A terrorist organization could not be legitimized on the pretext that it was fighting another terrorist organization. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnic group.

81. It was also imperative that all States take the necessary measures to bring members of terrorist organizations to justice. The effective implementation of the universal principle of "extradite or prosecute" was crucial to a collective response to terrorism. It was regrettable that members of terrorist organizations, including those targeting Turkey, were allowed to abuse the right to asylum in order to circumvent justice. Since organized crime was a primary source of terrorist financing, sustained efforts should be made to prevent crimes such as drug trafficking, money-laundering and arms smuggling.

82. Over the years, Turkey had concluded bilateral agreements that provided the legal basis for cooperation against terrorism with more than 70

countries. Turkey also contributed to the counter-terrorism capacity-building programmes of several countries around the world. It was a party to most of the United Nations conventions and protocols on terrorism. It attached great importance to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across all of its four pillars and welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

83. **Ms. Myint** (Myanmar) said that terrorism had inflicted untold suffering and loss of life throughout the world and had become even more formidable with the recent rise of violent extremism. International terrorists and violent extremists aimed to create a climate of fear, inflict maximum damage and suffering, tear apart communities and destroy the fabric of societies.

84. Myanmar stood with the rest of the world in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It was collaborating with countries around the globe, particularly those in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), in efforts to counter terrorism. It had ratified 11 of the 16 United Nations conventions related to counter-terrorism. Anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism legislation had been enacted in March and June 2014. A financial investigation unit and a counter-terrorism department had been set up under the Myanmar police force.

85. Myanmar was not immune to acts of terrorism, as the violent and coordinated attacks in northern Rakhine state in October and November 2016 and August 2017 vividly demonstrated. The attacks had been claimed by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). According to confessions by the arrested suspects, people and organizations from abroad were providing them with financial aid. The Government of Myanmar had declared ARSA and its supporters to be a terrorist group under its counter-terrorism law of 2014.

86. That group had been targeting not only security forces but also innocent civilians. A mass grave of 45 Hindu villagers, including women and children who had been brutally killed, had recently been discovered in the northern state of Rakhine. About 93 Hindu villagers had been reported missing since the attacks of August 2017, which had provoked widespread fear and the displacement of communities, not just Muslim and Rakhine, but also small minority groups. The Government of Myanmar strongly condemned those terrorist acts, would do all in its power to prevent them from occurring again and would strive to bring the perpetrators to justice.

87. The world must stand together to remove the scourge of terrorism.

88. **Ms. Khaled** (Bangladesh) said that Bangladesh welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the appointment of an Under-Secretary-General to head it. Enhancing coordination and coherence in the United Nations system-wide response to terrorism and violent extremism was important, not least in addressing the misalignment of priorities and reporting that were often witnessed at the country level. Bangladesh welcomed Security Council resolutions 2322 (2016), which addressed the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime, and 2379 (2017), which ensured accountability for international terrorist groups. As a State party to most of the counter-terrorism treaties, Bangladesh underscored the need to advance the development of a comprehensive convention on terrorism.

89. A terrorist was a terrorist and did not deserve to be identified by any belief, caste or creed. Her Government continued to make significant strides in its response to terrorism at the policy, legal and institutional levels, in line with the Prime Minister's "zero tolerance" approach. In the aftermath of the tragic terrorist attack at a local restaurant in 2016, the law enforcement authorities had already identified a considerable number of masterminds, financiers and foot soldiers and had dealt with them within the purview of the law. Efforts were ongoing to unearth the location of the remaining operatives and bring them to justice.

90. Bangladesh unequivocally condemned the attacks carried out against the Myanmar border security forces by an extremist group on 25 August 2017 and had offered cooperation in the form of coordinated patrols and joint operations. Regrettably, however, the counter-offensive by Myanmar security forces had been disproportionate and indiscriminate, resulting in an unprecedented exodus of civilians across the borders into Bangladesh. While offering shelter to those distressed people, Bangladesh remained concerned over the possibility of terrorist and violent extremist elements trying to take advantage of their acute vulnerability. The international community must support Myanmar in finding a lasting solution to the protracted humanitarian crisis, not least in the interests of regional peace and stability.

91. Her Government called for a whole-of-society response to root out the evils of violent extremism conducive to terrorism. It was focusing on building community resilience and engagement, including through enhanced participation in community policing

and women- and youth-led initiatives and through public-private partnerships and collaboration with relevant United Nations and other entities.

92. To conclude, she reiterated the three overriding priorities for the international community: first, stop supplying arms to the terrorists; second, stop terrorist financing; and third, settle all international disputes peacefully.

93. *Mr. Horna (Peru), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

94. **Ms. Al-Juboori** (Iraq) said that her delegation welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, an institution that was intended to bolster the coordination of United Nations mechanisms in combating terrorism. Her Government firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and, from whatever origin or region. Terrorist acts constituted a direct threat to international peace and security. Iraq was taking steps to eradicate that terrible scourge, a phenomenon that could not be associated with any religion, community, ethnic group, faith, society, culture or civilization.

95. When ISIL had launched its offensive against the Government and citizens of Iraq, leading to the occupation of major cities from 2014 onwards, barbaric terrorist acts had been carried out against Iraqi citizens. Since then, a number of steps had been taken in Iraq and throughout the world to abolish that scourge once and for all and prevent its spread to other States. The unity and cohesion of the Iraqi people had enabled a fatal blow to be dealt to that terrorist group, in particular thanks to the assistance provided by the international coalition. The successes over the past three years in most Iraqi cities and towns, notably in Mosul, were a clear example of that.

96. Her delegation attached special importance to international efforts and initiatives in countering terrorism. It was important to draw attention to the unfailing efforts of the Security Council since ISIL had emerged, including through resolutions 2170 (2014), 2253 (2015) and 2379 (2017), which condemned ISIL and took note of the efforts of the Iraqi Government to eradicate the group. The Sixth Committee should study everything that had been done to date and look into the measures adopted, especially with regard to cooperation between the Security Council and the General Assembly, and the pooling of efforts to eradicate ISIL.

97. Iraq had ratified most of the counter-terrorism instruments and bolstered its legislative arsenal for combating terrorism. It had hosted a number of important international meetings on countering terrorism, including the third international meeting on foreign terrorist fighters, held in October 2015, and the Second International Psychological and Media Operations to Counter Daesh Conference, held in August 2016.

98. Despite efforts by the United Nations in recent decades to combat terrorism and the adoption of many relevant instruments, terrorism was still active throughout the world, including in her country, hence the need to look into the root causes — why the phenomenon persisted, why terrorist acts were being committed — and to review measures taken thus far to combat them. It was also necessary to devise a unified definition of terrorism which would help to combat the phenomenon more effectively. The consensus conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism would help to harmonize counter-terrorism standards and procedures with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

99. **Mr. Mnatsakanyan** (Armenia) said that terrorism continued to pose a significant threat to international peace and stability. Horrific terrorist acts had been perpetrated throughout 2017. There was a collective responsibility to jointly fight and prevent terrorism in all its manifestations, in compliance with international human rights law, humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations.

100. Throughout the past year, United Nations system-wide activities to counter terrorism had been consolidated. The establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism would give further impetus to the fight against terrorism by strengthening coordination and coherence with the main United Nations counter-terrorism entities. The Security Council had been making significant contributions to collective efforts towards countering terrorism. The most recent of the five resolutions adopted in 2017, namely resolution 2379 (2017), represented an important step towards securing accountability and justice in the face of the perpetration by ISIL of acts that could amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

101. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization; however, the evidence that extremists and terrorists were targeting specific communities based on their religion or ethnicity had to be acknowledged. The atrocities perpetrated by ISIL, Al-Qaida and associated groups, individuals and entities against ethnic and religious groups were premeditated, identity-based crimes on a massive scale. The suffering of Yazidis, Christians and

other ethnic and religious minorities and groups must not remain unaddressed.

102. Although much had been done in the fight against terrorism, not enough had been achieved to address, at the same time, the conditions that bred the spread of terrorism or to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law. The normative and operational challenges to countering terrorism were compounded by actions aimed at undermining the very foundations and fabrics of societies and national institutions targeted by terrorists. The Secretary-General's holistic prevention agenda and the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism would undoubtedly strengthen the capacities of the United Nations and its impact on preventing the violent extremism which led to terrorism. The media, civil and religious society and educational institutions also played an important role in promoting tolerance, coexistence and an environment in which terrorist narratives and incitement to terrorism were firmly and effectively denied.

103. **Mr. Bagherpour Ardekani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that with the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism his delegation hoped for improvements in the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture that not only enhanced the coordination of counter-terrorism activities across the United Nations system, but also promoted United Nations capacity for better addressing the root causes of terrorism and extremism.

104. The heinous nightmares of terrorism and extremism were not confined to any one part of the world. After over a decade of wholesale failure in combating terrorism since the attacks of 9 September 2001, the ugly realities on the ground demanded that those challenges should be viewed with open eyes and without illusions. Myopic views of a complex situation and the pursuit of short-sighted, self-serving policies were bound to fail. Applying double standards and giving a one-sided interpretation of "terrorism" simply enabled terrorist groups and their affiliates to freely grow, recruit new members and perpetrate unspeakable atrocities.

105. It should have become all too clear by now that a successful fight against the cancerous phenomena of terrorism and extremism called for a multi-pronged strategy based, first and foremost, on a sober understanding and recognition of their enabling conditions, namely, a deeply felt state of deprivation, alienation and marginalization in an affluent and developed environment.

106. Containing and ultimately eliminating extremist terrorist organizations on the ground was certainly required, but only as a first step and only as a component of a much larger effort. Terrorism and extremism, as multidimensional phenomena, could be defeated only if a comprehensive plan was devised and implemented by the various stakeholders in a coordinated and coherent manner. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provided such a common platform for cooperation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran supported its implementation in an integrated and balanced way. States should also increase their efforts to crack down on the recruitment and movement of terrorists, cut off their financing channels and curb their abuse of social media. His country also attached great importance to the capacity of religious actors, including clerics and scholars, to promote mutual understanding and harmonious coexistence among diverse denominations and social groups by denouncing narratives and ideologies that engendered hatred and intolerance.

107. On 7 June 2017, cowardly terrorists affiliated with ISIL had carried out twin terrorist attacks in Tehran. Although the attackers had immediately been fought off by the security forces, several innocent citizens had been killed and dozens injured. Such indiscriminate attacks not only left untouched the will of the Islamic Republic of Iran to fight vigorously all manifestations of terrorism but also rendered that nation more firmly resolved to contribute to the fight against terrorism.

108. To enhance its legislative counter-terrorism capabilities, the Islamic Republic of Iran had concluded several bilateral security cooperation agreements. Furthermore, following the adoption in 2016 of legislation on countering the financing of terrorism, a number of directives and circulars had been issued on effective means of preventing terrorist financing, including through cash couriers and wire transfers. The executive branch of the Government had also started the formal process for accession to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

109. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of cause or pretext; there could be no justification for the killing of innocent people anywhere. Terrorism in her country was a by-product of political and geostrategic developments and foreign intervention in the region over the past 40 years. In the past decade alone, Pakistan had lost over 27,000 of its citizens and law enforcement personnel and suffered economic losses of over $120 billion. But neither the human nor financial losses had diminished her country's commitment to fight that menace;

instead, its will to eliminate terrorism had only been reinforced.

110. Her Government had adopted a whole-of-society approach as part of a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorism, including measures to evolve a national narrative to oppose the message of violent extremism. It had created a dedicated counter-terrorism force, enacted laws to prevent the financing of terrorism and undertaken reform of the criminal justice system. It had launched a military campaign, the largest counter-terrorism operation in the world, with the deployment of 200,000 members of its security forces to destroy terrorist infrastructures and bases in the region bordering on Afghanistan and in tribal areas. It had also embarked on a law enforcement operation targeting elements that had fled to urban areas from military operations in the tribal areas. As a result, terrorist activities in Pakistan had been sharply reduced over the past two years to the lowest level since 2006, according to the Global Terrorism Index. Notwithstanding such efforts, terrorism continued to pose a threat, but its nature had now changed: it was primarily supported and financed from outside the country's borders.

111. The United Nations was uniquely positioned to assist Member States in developing their counter-terrorism capacities. Her delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's reform initiative and the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism. With the reform of the counter-terrorism architecture, however, terrorism must not be dissociated from its political context, its transnational dimension and the geopolitics that often created conditions that spawned terrorism. The upcoming review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy must address the defamation of religions and demonization of communities which incited hatred and violent reactions. Festering disputes and unresolved conflicts, aggression, foreign occupation and denial of the right to self-determination must be addressed as well.

112. Pakistan was in favour of a consensus-based, comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which must be consistent with international humanitarian law and clearly differentiate between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle for self-determination of people living under foreign occupation. Malicious attempts to manipulate the international consensus against terrorism to justify the suppression of people struggling for the right of self-determination must never be permitted to succeed.

113. She reiterated he Government's commitment to work together with the international community to counter terrorism, but she also re-emphasized the need to address the root causes and drivers of radicalization that lay in economic and social marginalization and exclusion: otherwise, the world would be fighting only the symptoms and not the underlying causes of the deadly phenomenon of terrorism.

114. **Mr. Locsin** (Philippines) said that on 23 May 2017, hundreds of men belonging to an ISIL-inspired terrorist organization had attacked Marawi, a Muslim-majority city in central Mindanao. They had seized control of a considerable part of the city and had taken civilians as hostages. The attack, arguably the most destructive act of terrorism in his country's history, had caused an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with around 200,000 persons being displaced by the fighting.

115. In just over four months, the conflict had caused 146 deaths among military and police forces, while 673 terrorists had been killed. Civilian casualties numbered 47 dead, most of the fatalities having been sustained in the terrorists' attempts to spark sectarian violence in the expectation their co-religionists would join in the carnage. But the people of Marawi would have nothing to do with the terrorists. There were reports of Muslim residents hiding their Christian neighbours. The Government had demonstrated forbearance, taking care not to unleash greater force so as to minimize civilian casualties, even at the cost of more military and police casualties, in what became a punishing, door-to-door, street-by-street fight. The Government had pushed for the establishment of a peace corridor through the city to allow the safe passage of trapped civilians and enable vital supplies to reach those unable to leave their protected positions within the battle zone. With tens of thousands displaced, the Government had addressed health and sanitation concerns in the evacuation centres, but most of the displaced had quickly found safety and shelter with families and friends — a testament to the strength of the Filipino family system.

116. At the same time, the Philippines had discovered the intimate and symbiotic relationship between terrorism, poverty and the illegal drug trade. Terrorists had been able to gather a motley assortment of extremists, criminals, mercenaries and foreign fighters to take control of Marawi and re-establish in another part of the world their shattered caliphate in the Middle East.

117. The Philippines condemned terrorism anywhere in the world, however inspired — by religious madness or individual perversity, like that in Las Vegas. His country had to agree with the President of the United States of America that terrorism was only for losers.

118. President Duterte understood that terrorism was a global problem that no country could tackle alone. Counter-terrorism was a cornerstone of his national agenda, which included strengthening cooperation with regional partners and with the United States of America, so that the Philippines could have a more effective defence system to crush terrorism when it could not be deterred. The Philippines wished to deepen key areas of cooperation with the United Nations and regional and bilateral partners, including threats to commercial aviation, nuclear terrorism, cybercrime, terrorist financing, support for victims of terrorism and capacity-building.

119. The Philippines addressed violent extremism through a whole-of-society approach. Women, young people, Muslim and Christian leaders and teachers, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector were engaged as partners in counter-radicalization and as a collective force for moderation, peace, democracy and development. The security awareness of local communities was being raised. Law enforcement and security experts were being trained, in partnership with grassroots efforts, to detect and stop threats from home-grown violent extremists.

120. There could be no political accommodation with terrorism. Safety from terrorism could not be bought by yielding to any of its demands. There was no living with terrorism, because it would not let others live.

121. **Mr. AlMowaizri** (Kuwait) said that his country rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism should not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Governments must cooperate in the international counter-terrorism effort and aim to establish measures that promoted the rule of law and respect for human rights; address the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty; support good governance, sustainable development and coexistence among religions; ensure respect for religious symbols and holy sites; and prevent incitement to hatred, extremism and violence.

122. Kuwait was a party to most of the international counter-terrorism instruments as well as a number of bilateral agreements. His delegation attached great importance to the finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The final text should include a clear definition of terrorism, including State terrorism, and should distinguish it from the right of peoples to resist aggression and struggle for self-determination.

123. On 15 March 2017, Kuwait had hosted a meeting of a working group on foreign terrorist fighters, which had brought together 45 States. It reaffirmed its rejection of all forms of terrorism and extremism and advocated strengthening the culture of tolerance and coexistence among peoples. His country fully supported all international efforts to eradicate terrorist threats around the world.

124. **Mr. Lisuchenko** (Ukraine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that what was currently happening in eastern Ukraine was the direct continuation of Russian aggression. On 17 September 2014, by its resolution 71/205, the General Assembly had recognized the temporary occupation of the autonomous republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. But Russia had decided to further destabilize Ukraine by establishing and supporting terrorist organizations in the Donbas region. Russian citizens were at the helm of the terrorist organizations operating there, and were also within their ranks. They were armed with modern Russian weaponry and financed by Russian governmental and non-governmental entities. Clearly, no other pieces of evidence pointing to that country's involvement were needed.

125. In every document provided and statement made in the General Assembly and the Security Council, Ukraine had stressed that terrorist acts were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, and wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. His country also pledged to bring to justice perpetrators and sponsors of those crimes. Yet the Russian Federation acted like an aggressor, apparently believing in its impunity.

126. For over three years, Ukraine had trained the spotlight on the numerous facts revealing Russian support of terrorism in Ukraine. The relevant communications had been included in the submission by Ukraine to the International Court of Justice, and Ukraine was ready to provide additional materials during the waiting phase in the Court's proceedings.

127. He wished to remind the delegation of the Russian Federation that the fact that the International Court of Justice had not authorized provisional measures did not mean that Russia would not be held accountable for violations of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. Ukraine would use all peaceful means to protect the nation until the Russian Federation returned Crimea, withdrew from the Donbas and paid in full for its aggression.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.